



A Message from President Capilouto

New Milestones in Student Success

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to recognize a special member of the UK family who personifies one of our most important and precious responsibilities: teaching. Dr. Christia Spears Brown, a professor of psychology, received the Acorn Award, an honor presented each year to a faculty member exhibiting excellence in service and commitment to students.

Dr. Brown said something that day that touched me. She said, "teaching is intimately personal," and she quoted national award-winning educator, Jose Antonio Bowen, who said: "The classroom environment is primarily relational, not informational."

Teachers are no longer the gatekeepers of knowledge, but rather the facilitators of learning.

Our dedicated faculty and staff, such as Dr. Brown, who build relationships and invest in students, invigorate our ability to retain and graduate successful students.

We are seeing the results of this important work.

This year, we achieved our highest recorded retention rate for first year students in our history--82.7 percent. This number is even more powerful when you think about the individual students it represents: 463 more first year students who returned to our

campus this year than in 2013. To put it another way, 463 lives changed by a college education.



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There is still more work to do, but these numbers are moving in the right direction.

Efforts toward aggressive goals for our retention and graduation rates are indicators of a broader campus culture dedicated to the academic achievement and personal development of those who make up our university community. Many of our individual colleges have also set new records for both retention and number of students served. We have also seen the campus graduation rates climb over just the last year. Our six-year graduation rate reached 61.3 percent, a 1.1 percent increase.

These accomplishments reflect your commitment, collaboration and dedication to our students.

We must continue to build upon your good work. 🐾

Sincerely,

Eli Capilouto, President

Enrollment, Academic Quality Show UK is Poised for Excellence

The last four years of UK's campus transformation have helped lay a foundation — the goal of which is achieving academic excellence in everything that happens at the institution.

The foundation for excellence is evidenced most recently in preliminary 2015-2016 enrollment numbers released the September meeting of the UK Board of Trustees in Hazard.



Highlights of enrollment for fall 2015 semester include:

A larger campus, educating more students: With 5,217 students this fall, it's the second consecutive year, UK has had more than 5,000 students in its first-year class as well as the second consecutive year the university has had more than 30,000 students overall. It's a 21 percent increase in first-year students since 2010.

The most academically prepared: The average ACT of first-year students is 25.5; the average GPA is 3.68; 117 students in this class are National Merit, Hispanic and Achievement Scholars and more than 700 students had ACT/SAT scores of 31 or above

An increasingly diverse campus: Nearly 560 students in this first-year class are African Americans, more than 10 percent of the class; 265 are Hispanic. The UK campus is now the most diverse in its history

In the past four years, UK has initiated — or is about to begin — more than \$1.8 billion in capital construction projects, focused on living, learning and dining spaces, as well as classroom and research facilities. That foundation is designed to create one of the pre-eminent living, learning and research environments in American public higher education.

Now, as UK and the Board of Trustees considered a new strategic plan in its wOctober retreat, the institution will continue its focus on student success through increased retention and graduation rates, as well as how well it is preparing those graduates for success in the broader world. 🐾



Largest, Single Gift in UK History | Focused on Enhancing Student Experience, Honors

Further underscoring the commitment to create the best possible academic experience for students, the University of Kentucky announced the single largest gift in UK's history — \$23 million to create one of the country's leading Honors programs.

The gift, from UK alum and long-time donor Thomas W. Lewis and his wife Jan, of Paradise Valley, Arizona, will establish an Honors College at the University of Kentucky. The establishment of a new college will be subject to faculty review and endorsement through the University Senate next year.

Lewis, a native of Lexington and 1971 engineering graduate of UK, is a seventh generation Kentuckian, tracing his direct ancestry back to Squire Boone, the father of legendary frontiersman Daniel Boone. After UK, Lewis attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned an MBA.

Lewis entered the home building business after graduate school and over the next 18 years was employed by a series of large firms where he gained practical experience at all work levels. In 1991, he began his own business, T.D. Lewis Company, in Phoenix, Arizona, which became one of the nation's

most successful home building enterprises, receiving numerous awards including America's Best Builder, the National Housing Quality Silver and Gold Awards and America's Best Design Center Award.

In the last five years, participation in the university's Honors Program has nearly doubled, growing from 750 students to 1,400, part of an effort to enhance the undergraduate educational experience,

while also improving retention and graduation rates.

UK's mission is focused on students and serving Kentucky. That vision and that mission are attracting dedicated donors and alums, who share that sense of service to the university and to the Commonwealth, as evidenced by the fact that this gift is focused on the success and future of UK students. 🏡



UK Begins Work on Research Facility Designed to Address State's Health Disparities

The University of Kentucky announced the beginning of work on a research facility unique in the country—a building dedicated to addressing health challenges and disparities in Kentucky.

The research facility—scheduled for completion in spring 2018—is a \$265 million building. Half of the funding for the facility is coming from the state of Kentucky; half is coming from University resources, including private gifts.

Robert Stivers, president of the Kentucky Senate said this project would represent the largest large impact on health and healthcare he had seen in his 19 years in the legislature.

The design and focus of the building come with a specific scientific underpinning. Specifically, the new facility will focus work and attention on health disparities in our state. In some of the most debilitating and deadly diseases, we lead the country in incidence rates. It is time to make a death a beggar in Kentucky.

The new building will be linked to other major research space in the heart of the campus, the Bio-Pharmacy Building and the Biological Biomedical Research Building, further fostering collaborative and multidisciplinary work. 🏡



Two unique areas of focus will distinguish the building:

Its focus on Kentucky challenges, particularly health disparities in areas such as a cancer, diabetes, heart diseases, drug abuse, and other health conditions where the state is among the country's leaders in incident rates.

Its fostering of multidisciplinary research across numerous fields—health care researchers (both basic and clinical), public health, behavioral sciences, agriculture outreach and extension, economics and engineering —working in close proximity and collaboratively to develop solutions to these complex problems. A fact sheet with information about the design and building's focus is attached.